



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

**MICHAELMAS**  
**27 September 2015**

We wish you a warm welcome to our services today for our Patronal Festival. At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches. Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions. .

**Hymns: Leaflet, 401, 392 and 466**

**Setting: Thorne**

This is the new setting that Andy has practised with us recently.

Refreshments will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a bring-and-buy sale – please stay on.

(The Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church 1.00 – 5.00pm)

Evening Prayer at 6.00 pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Parish of Carlton with Chellington in our Deanery.  
The Diocese of Spokane (USA), James Waggoner its bishop and all its people.

All churches dedicated to St Michael and All Angels.

**The World:** The continuing fight against the Ebola virus.

The refugee crisis in Europe.

All those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate change.

**The Community and Parish:** The wider Church family of St Michaels, past present and future.

All those not able to worship with us today.

All refugees who are or will be living in Watford.

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Bruce Alexander, Sonia Anderson, Tina Bennett, Janet Bridge, Jean and Robert Caton, Peter Coley, Marion Craddock-Jones, Pamela Cutler, Audrey Dixon, Claire Dunning, Sandra Fullerton, Sharon Goodwin, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Lesley Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O’Riordan, Helen Perry, Mark Pritchard, Christina Simon, Mark Simon, Karen Stride and Nicholas Weeks.

**The Departed:**

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**COLLECT**

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 28.10–17**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran.

<sup>11</sup> He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

<sup>12</sup> And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

<sup>13</sup> And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

<sup>14</sup> and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

<sup>15</sup> Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'

<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!'

<sup>17</sup> And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

## **SECOND READING Revelation 12.7–12**

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- <sup>7</sup> War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back,
- <sup>8</sup> but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
- <sup>9</sup> The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- <sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.
- <sup>11</sup> But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.
- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!’

## **GOSPEL John 1.47–51**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

- <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’
- <sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’
- <sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’
- <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’
- <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

## THIS WEEK

Mon	28	Sep	Toddlers' Group	10.00am – 11.30am
Tue	29	Sep	<i>Michaelmas</i> Pie Supper	6.30pm for 7.00pm
			followed by Compline	
Wed	30	Sep	Food Bank	10.00am – 12 noon
			Coffee in Church	10.30am – 12 noon
Thu	1	Oct	Holy Communion	10.00am
			Choir Practice	7.00 – 8.30pm
Sun	4	Oct	<b><u>HARVEST</u></b>	
			Holy Communion (Pres: Fr Geoff)	8.00am
			<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> (President and Preacher: Fr Geoff)	<b>9.30am</b>
			United Service at Trinity Methodist	6.30pm

## NOTICES

MICHAELMAS will be celebrated today, Sunday, 27th at 9.30 am and Tuesday, 29th September when there will be a Pie Supper (Cottage or vegetable pie followed by dessert). You are asked to bring your own drinks (byo). This will be followed by Compline. Tickets for the supper are on sale and cost £6. Please get yours today.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING is next Sunday, 4 October. Dried goods can be brought to the Harvest Service. These will be given to the Food Bank. There are leaflets at the back of the church which list the type of food that is most acceptable for the food parcels.

REFUGEE CRISIS: - there is a document available at the back of Church from Watford Deanery, with responses Christians can make to the refugee crisis.

HALL LETTINGS SECRETARY NEEDED URGENTLY: We need someone to look after the lettings of Littlebury Hall, taking enquiries, collecting payment, locking and unlocking. Please consider very carefully if you could serve our church community in this way. More information from Kristine Jenkins or Fr Geoff.

FINAL COPY DATE for October Sword is today 27th September. Hard copy or floppy disc to Rob White or email to [robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:robwhite.watford@tiscali.co.uk). Items welcome from church members of any age.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday School will be held during the 9.30 service. If you would like to help with a session during this term please see Fr Geoff or Elizabeth Watkin.